

# FORM B - BUILDING

Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): March 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Town of Hanson Historical

Assessor's Number      USGS Quad      Area(s)      Form  
Number

34-0-2-0

Hanover

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**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 132 Crooker Place

**Historic Name:** Daniel and Hannah Crooker  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** Prior to 1818

**Source:** Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

**Style/Form:** Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Clapboard/Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Above ground pool and garden shed

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Wooden  
deck and additions, vinyl clapboard siding and  
aluminum replacement windows

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒      **yes** ☐      **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.33 Acres

**Setting:** Located on a side street extending  
south from Main Street, the property is at the end  
of the short roadway and is the only house located  
to the south of the railroad tracks, which both  
isolates it from the other single family homes in  
the area and creates a sense that the house is  
located deep in the surrounding woods.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story original house is a half-Cape house in form has a large square footprint under a wide asphalt shingled gable roof. The house sits with its east gable-end façade to the road and has a long, low one-story addition extending from the northeast corner. A second, wider one-story addition extends from the west façade of the house. Both additions have gable roofs and are significantly lower than the original structure at the center of the building. A wide corbeled brick chimney straddles the ridge at the east end of the roof and a small satellite dish is located on the north roof slope of the east addition. The house is vinyl clapboard sided with vinyl clad trim that includes the narrow projecting eaves on the gable façades of both the main house and its later additions. On the gable-end facades, the roof ends flush with the facades below and a narrow band of vinyl trim extends along the upper edge of the facades. The original double hung windows have all been replaced with one-over-one aluminum replacement windows in at least two different window sizes.

The front façade of the house faces south into the side yard of the property and is only half the width of a typical Cape of this area. Half-Cape buildings were once the common starter home for early colonial families and were generally expanded over time into traditional Cape style homes. A large unpainted wood deck extends across the width of the south façade of the original building. It has an overhanging pergola style roof supported by square posts and tall wood railings with square balusters. A ramp extends along the south side of the porch and a set of open wood stairs are located at the center of the east side of the porch. Two double hung windows on the left side of the façade and the entrance in the right corner of the façade are all located below the pergola, which extends up above the eaves of the house. The material and design of the door are not visible from the street and are protected by a metal storm door. The south façade of the west addition is partially visible from Crooker Place. The shallow gable roof has a wider overhang on this façade than is seen on the rest of the building and two long double hung windows are located at either end of the façade. The east gable-end façade has two double hung windows in its gable-end that are positioned towards the left side of the façade. A single double hung window is located on the left side of the first floor, while a second butts up against the later addition in the northeast corner of the façade.

The addition has a gable roof with a slightly longer north roof slope that extends the addition out past the north façade of the original building. The south façade of the addition has a second entrance tucked into the left corner of the façade which has a nine-pane half door style replacement door that is located behind a metal storm door. A double hung window is located next to the door, and two more are located on the far end of the addition. The entrance has a low brick landing that opens onto the side yard. Two double hung windows are set unevenly into the east façade of the addition, while the north façade has a narrow set of two sliding windows set high on the west end of the façade.

On the north façade of the original house, a long shed dormer extends from the center of the roof ridge down past the center of the roof slope. The dormer has flat overhangs on all three sides trimmed in vinyl clad molding over two short double hung windows. A pair of double hung windows are also located on the first floor below. To the west of the main building, the north façade of the west façade addition steps back gradually from the north

*Continuation sheet 3*

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façade of the main building. The center of the addition has a covered porch area with tall wood posts supporting the nearly flat roof structure.

The house is located at the end of a dead-end street and is cut off from the rest of the neighborhood by the railroad tracks which run along the north property line. The house sits in a grass covered clearing in the woods and has foundation plants and evergreens along the east and south facades of the addition. Smaller bushes dot the yard. An above ground pool and garden shed are located at the far side of the front porch to the southwest of the house. A small unpaved parking area is located at the south end of the site.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

White's History of Hanson states that this house was originally owned by Daniel Crooker and probably built between 1795 and 1800. According to a family history, though, the name was actually "Crocker" and was misspelled or misread in an early document and this is supported by the fact that an early relative, Sylvanus Crocker, is listed as such on his gravestone in Fern Hill Cemetery. However it started, however, the Crooker name stuck with both the site and is the one attached to the histories of many of the family members. White's dates are slightly later than the 1884 History of Hanson, which lists the then Luther Keene house as being built in 1790.<sup>1</sup> The house appears on the 1830 Smith Plan at the northern edge of the Great Cedar Swamp where it is set well back from the street and listed as belonging to D. Crooker. Which Daniel Crooker built it, however, is less clear, as there were four Daniels who are known or are presumed to have owned the property before 1850. Deacon Daniel Crooker (1717-1773) appears to have been the first owner of the property and was one of Hanson's earliest residents when it was still an area of Pembroke. Born in Pembroke, he had married May Ramsdell of Pembroke in 1736 and was made a deacon of the Hanson parish in 1753. His son Daniel (1740-1818) married Hannah White in 1776 and also lived in Hanson as did Deacon Crooker's grandson, Daniel Crooker, Jr., (1773-1843) who married Sylvina Harden (1778-1865) in Pembroke in 1800. Daniel Jr. is the one who sold the land in 1843 and had the four previously listed sons as well as a daughter, Salome. According to the 1843 deed in which Daniel Jr. sold the property to his sons, Daniel, Calvin, Amos, and Luther, the land is described as being sold "with all the dwelling house and other buildings now thereon, said real estate as given by will by my late father Daniel Crooker."<sup>2</sup> This confirms that the land was in the Crooker family before the death of the second Daniel in 1818, and leaves the door open for it to date back to Deacon Crooker as well. Using White's dates as a guide, the second Daniel Crooker would have been the owner of the property when the house was built.

All of the Crookers appear in early nineteenth century Census records as farmers. By the 1856 Walling Map, the Old Colony and Fall River Rail Road has divided the property from Main Street. The house appears to sit in a clearing in the woods and is now listed as belonging to Mrs. S. Crooker. While the narrow road from Main Street still ends at the Crooker home, a new pathway is shown running past the house to the south and is identified as the Indian Cross Way. Mrs. S. Crooker is most likely Daniel Jr.'s widow, Sylvina, who lived in Hanson until her death in 1865. By the 1879 Richards Atlas, the property belonged to Luther Keene (1805-1902), a farmer who appears to have purchased the property after Sylvina's death. John Foster purchased the property in 1902 from Luther Keene's estate and set up the John Foster Company. John Foster is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as working in manufacturing. In 1880, Foster purchased a longstanding sawmill then owned by Barnabus Everson.

<sup>1</sup> Section on Ancient houses from 1884 History of Hanson at [www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/history/1884-history-of-hanson/](http://www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/history/1884-history-of-hanson/)

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 211, Page 99

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It was considered to be an excellent location for a sawmill given the close proximity of the cedar swamp, and Foster added grist and Excelsior Mills to the site before selling it in 1883 to E.Y. Perry.<sup>3</sup>

The John Foster Company sold the house in 1921 to Mary T. Freeman, who sold it in 1929 to Walter and May Courier. Walter was a laborer in a canning factory according to the 1930 U.S. Census and lived here with his wife and five children. As the Great Depression progressed, however, the family lost the home to foreclosure in 1938 and by 1940 Walter was working as a laborer for the WPA. The Home Owner's Loan Corporation sold the property in 1939 to Axel and Bertha Rosenberg of Brockton.<sup>4</sup> The property may have been an investment rather than a home for the couple, though, as there is no listing for the Rosenbergs in Hanson during the seventeen years that they owned the property. In 1956, the house was sold to George and Mildred Troy,<sup>5</sup> who sold the property to its current owners, Theodore and Mildred Turenne, in 1963.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 1884 History of Hanson, page 349, at [www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/history/1884-history-of-hanson/](http://www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/history/1884-history-of-hanson/)

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1765, Page 301

<sup>5</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2525, Page 205

<sup>6</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3019, Page 286

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